

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A system for providing an internal Universal Serial Bus (USB) port within a
2 computer chassis, the computer chassis internally mounting a motherboard having a
3 first USB header for communicating with an external USB port, said system
4 comprising:
5 a printed wire board (PWB) supporting a second USB header, a third USB
6 header, a USB hub and the internal USB port, the PWB being mountable at a location
7 within the computer chassis;
8 the second USB header operative to communicate with the first USB header;
9 the third USB header operative to communicate with the external USB port;
10 the USB hub operative to communicate information to and from the first USB
11 header of the motherboard via the second USB header, and to communicate
12 information to and from the external USB port via the third USB header; and
13 the internal USB port being operative to communicate information to and from
14 the motherboard via the USB hub.
- 1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the location at which the PWB is mounted is a
2 location other than a Peripheral Component Interface (PCI) expansion slot of the
3 computer chassis.
- 1 3. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a voltage regulator supported by the PWB, the voltage regulator being
3 operative to receive a first voltage output from the motherboard and to provide, in
4 response thereto, a second, lower voltage output to the USB hub.

1 4. The system of claim 3, wherein the first voltage output is approximately 5
2 volts, and the second voltage output is approximately 3.3 volts.

1 5. The system of claim 3, wherein the PWB is operative to receive a third voltage
2 output from the motherboard, the third voltage output being routed by the PWB to
3 power the external USB port.

1 6. The system of claim 1, wherein:
2 the chassis has mounts extending into the interior thereof;
3 the PWB has apertures formed therethrough, each of the apertures being
4 operative to receive one of the mounts such that insertion of the mounts into the
5 apertures secures the PWB to the chassis.

1 7. The system of claim 6, wherein the mounts form interference fits with the
2 apertures when the mounts inserted within the apertures.

1 8. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a first USB cable operative to interconnect the first USB header of the
3 motherboard with the second USB header; and
4 a second USB cable operative to interconnect the third USB header with the
5 external USB port.

1 9. A computer system comprising:
2 a chassis defining an interior;
3 a first Universal Serial Bus (USB) port externally mounted to the chassis;
4 a motherboard mounted within the interior of the chassis, the motherboard
5 having a first USB header for communicating with the first USB port; and
6 a daughter card mounted within the interior of the chassis, the daughter card
7 communicating with the motherboard and having a second USB port, a USB hub, a
8 second USB header, and a third USB header;
9 the USB hub being operative to communicate information to and from the first
10 USB header of the motherboard via the second USB header of the daughter card, and
11 to communicate information to and from the first USB port via the third USB header
12 of the daughter card; and
13 the internal USB port being operative to communicate information to and from
14 the motherboard via the USB hub and the second USB header of the daughter card.

1 10. The system of claim 9, wherein:
2 the chassis has a Peripheral Component Interface (PCI) expansion slot; and
3 the daughter card is mounted at a location other than the PCI expansion slot.

1 11. The system of claim 9, wherein the motherboard controls continuity of power
2 to the daughter card.

1 12. The system of claim 9, further comprising:
 2 a voltage regulator supported by the daughter card, the voltage regulator being
 3 operative to receive a first voltage output from the motherboard and to provide, in
 4 response thereto, a second, lower voltage output to the USB hub.

1 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the first voltage output is approximately 5
 2 volts, and the second voltage output is approximately 3.3 volts.

1 14. The system of claim 9, wherein the daughter card is operative to receive a third
 2 voltage output from the motherboard, the third voltage output being routed by the
 3 daughter card to power the first USB port.

1 15. The system of claim 9, further comprising:
 2 means for securing the daughter card to the chassis.

1 16. The system of claim 9, wherein:
 2 the system further comprises a mount extending into the interior of the chassis;
 3 and
 4 the daughter card has an aperture for receiving the mount such that insertion of
 5 the mount into the aperture secures the daughter card to the chassis.

1 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the mount forms an interference fit with the
 2 aperture when inserted therein.

1 18. The system of claim 9, further comprising:
2 a first USB cable operative to interconnect the first USB header of the
3 motherboard with the second USB header of the daughter card; and
4 a second USB cable operative to interconnect the third USB header of the
5 daughter card with the first USB port.

1 19. A system for providing an internal Universal Serial Bus (USB) port within a
2 computer chassis, the computer chassis internally mounting a first USB header for
3 communicating with an external USB port, said system comprising:
4 a printed wire board (PWB) supporting a USB hub and a USB port, the PWB
5 being operative to provide passthrough communication between the first USB header
6 and the external USB port, the PWB being internally mountable within a computer
7 chassis such that the USB port of the PWB operates as an internal USB port.

1 20. A system for providing an internal Universal Serial Bus (USB) port within a
2 computer chassis, the computer chassis internally mounting a first USB header for
3 communicating with an external USB port, said system comprising:
4 means for providing passthrough communication between the first USB header
5 and the external USB port, the means for providing passthrough communication being
6 internally mountable within a computer chassis such that, when mounted therein, the
7 means for providing passthrough communication additionally provides the internal
8 USB port within the computer chassis.

1 21. A method for providing an internal Universal Serial Bus (USB) port within a
2 computer chassis, said method comprising:

3 providing a computer chassis having an external USB port and an internally
4 mounted first USB header for communicating with the external USB port;
5 providing a printed wire board (PWB) supporting a USB hub and a USB port;
6 and
7 internally mounting the PWB within the computer chassis such that the PWB
8 provides passthrough communication between the first USB header and the external
9 USB port, with the USB port of the PWB operating as an internal USB port.

1 22. The method of claim 21, wherein:

2 the computer chassis has mounts extending into the interior thereof;
3 the PWB has apertures formed therethrough; and
4 internally mounting the PWB within the computer chassis comprises inserting
5 the mounts into the apertures to secure the PWB to the computer chassis.

1 23. The method of claim 21, wherein internally mounting the PWB within the
2 computer chassis comprises:

3 interconnecting a first USB cable between the first USB header and the PWB;
4 and
5 interconnecting a second USB cable between the PWB and the external USB
6 port.